

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 L-03 EB-11 SS-15 H-03

NSC-10 DOTE-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PA-03

PRS-01 USIE-00 RSR-01 IOE-00 AF-10 /127 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0469

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8833

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ETRN, PFOR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ROME CONFERENCE/ASSEMBLY -- ROUNTREE/HERZ TELECON

REFTEL: STATE 171733

1. CONFIRMING ROUNTREE/HERZ TELECON. ROUNTREE SAW HADDAD THIS MORNING AND MADE POINTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPT'S INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL. HADDAD IMMEDIATELY SAID CHANGE INVOLVING WORD QTE TAKE UNQTE WAS IMPOSSIBLE. HOWEVER, HE FORESAW SOME POSSIBILITY OF DELETING WORD QTE STRONGLY UNQTE.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, THERE WAS LONG PRIVATE MEETING IN WHICH APPARENTLY 16 ARAB STATES AND 30 AFRICANS PARTICIPATED TO DISCUSS LEBANESE TEXT. FOLLOWING THAT MEETING HADDAD SAW ROUNTREE AGAIN AND TOLD HIM BOTH CHANGES WERE OUT OF THE QUESTION. RESOLUTION HAD ALREADY BEEN TABLED; THERE WERE 46 CO-SPONSORS; AND HE EXPECTED THERE WOULD BE OVER 60 CO-SPONSORS BY TOMORROW.

3. DEPT REQUESTED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN REVIEWING MATTER FACTS THAT USDEL INITIALLY FOUND RELATIVELY WIDE SUPPORT AMONG DELEGATES FOR SOUTH AFRICAN TYPE RESOLUTION AND THAT GENERAL ATMOSPHERE SUCH THAT RELATIVELY MODERATE CHARACTER OF LEBANESE RESOLUTION SHOULD
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BE APPRECIATED. AT SAME TIME SENTIMENT SUFFICIENTLY STRONG AGAINST

ISRAEL THAT THERE IS GENUINE RISK THAT PRESENT INITIATIVE WILL UNRAVEL AND LEBANESE REP EXPRESSED PRECISELY THIS CONCERN TO ROUNTREE IN STRONGLY URGING US TO GO ALONG WITH RESOLUTION.

4. ROUNTREE TOLD LEBANESE WHAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO REFER MATTER TO WASHINGTON. HE EXPRESSED GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT THAT CHANGES WE HAD SOUGHT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTABLE AND UNDERScored OUR CONTINUING HOPE THAT PREVIOUS UNANIMITY IN UNSC AND ICAO COUNCIL COULD BE PRESERVED IN CONFERENCE.

5. CONFERENCE OPERATES UNDER 24 HOUR RULE BUT WE DO NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY LEBANESE DEL MAY SPEAK TO TEXT THIS AFTERNOON. WE BELIEVE THERE WILL BE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR PRESENT TEXT. OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT ONLY NEGATIVE VOTE WOULD BE ISRAEL. OTHER US OBJECTIVES HERE WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED IF WE WERE TO BE ISOLATED IN THIS INSTANCE. ALTERNATIVES THAT NOW APPEAR WOULD INCLUDE SEEKING SEPARATE VOTE ON OBJECTIONAL WORDS IN RESOLUTION, PARA-BY-PARA VOTE OR SUBMITTING AMENDMENT. WE WILL NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT REACTION OF OTHER DELS BEFORE CONSIDERING ANY SUCH PROCEDURAL MOVE.

6. DEL UNDERSTANDS ON BASIS ABOVE TELECON THAT ANY FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WILL NOT REACH US BEFORE COB HERE AND WE INTEND TO STAND FIRMLY ON PRESENT POSITION, GIVING NO INDICATION OF ANY FLEXIBILITY WHATSOEVER EVEN THOUGH THIS RUNS CERTAIN RISK OF ENCOURAGING THOSE WHO WOULD PREFER STRONGER ACTION. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME08833
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS VOLPE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973088/aaaaafno.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: EL: STATE 171733
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: ROME CONFERENCE/ASSEMBLY -- ROUNTREE/HERZ TELECON
TAGS: PINS, ETRN, PFOR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005